



**EFSEC**

**Washington State  
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council**

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## ***Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project March 12, 2003 - Public Informational and EIS Scoping Meeting***

- Agenda:**
- 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.: Open House**
  - 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.: Public Meeting**
    - **The Project**
    - **The EFSEC Process**
    - **The Counsel for the Environment**
    - **Public Comments and EIS Scoping**

**Welcome** to this Public Informational Meeting sponsored by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC or Council). This meeting is an opportunity for you to learn about the proposal to build the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project (Project), a wind turbine electrical generation facility in Kittitas County, Washington, and for you to give your comments about this Project and the scope of the environmental impact statement.

EFSEC wants to know what issues are most important to you, so please take the time to fill out the attached comment form and place it in the **Public Comment Box** before leaving the meeting.

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### **Beginning the EFSEC Review: EIS Scoping**

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The Applicant, Sagebrush Power Partners, L.L.C. of Houston, Texas, is proposing to build a 182-megawatt, wind turbine electrical generation facility on the ridges on either side of State Highway 97, roughly 12 miles northwest of the city of Ellensburg.

Under Washington State law, EFSEC is responsible for siting and licensing the construction and operation of major energy facilities in Washington State. This Project is an alternative energy facility as defined in RCW 80.50.020(17). Zilkha Renewable Energy chose to receive site certification from EFSEC for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project pursuant to RCW 89.50.060(2).

EFSEC is beginning its review as outlined in Chapter 80.50 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and Title 463 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), EFSEC is the state lead agency for major energy facilities including projects of this nature. EFSEC will produce an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will assess impacts from the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

Tonight's meeting is an opportunity for interested persons to provide suggestions and comments regarding issues to be addressed in the environmental impact statement including the scope of the analyses and the project alternatives to be considered. The issues identified in this scoping process will be taken into account during the preparation of the environmental impact statement for this Project.

***Please fill out the attached comment sheet  
and let us know what issues are most important to you!***

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## Proposed Project Description

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### **The Proposed Generation Facility:**

The proposed 5000-acre site for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project is located on the ridges on either side of State Highway 97, roughly 12 miles northwest of the city of Ellensburg on land zoned Agriculture-20 and Forest and Range by Kittitas County. The site for the Project would be leased from private landowners and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Approximately 90 acres of land would be permanently impacted by the Project.

Electrical energy would be produced at the Project using 121 3-bladed wind generation turbines erected on steel tubular towers. The turbine towers would range in height from approximately 150 to 260 feet, and the rotor blades would be from 200 to 300 feet in diameter. Foundations would be installed for each turbine.

The Project would also include access roads and electrical interconnection facilities (see below), as well as an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building. The 50 by 100 foot O&M building would be located near the corner of State Highway 97 and Bettas Road, and would include a main building with offices, spare parts storage, restrooms, a shop area, and outdoor parking facilities. The area for the O&M building would serve as the temporary operations base during Project construction.

Finally, the Project would include four permanent meteorological towers.

### **Electrical Interconnection:**

The Project would require approximately 23 miles of underground, and 2 miles of overhead 34.5 kilovolt (kV) electrical power lines. Electricity generated at the turbines (575 to 690 Volts) is stepped up to 34.5 kV at a transformer located beside each turbine and then routed through an underground collection system to the substation. At the substation, the electrical power from the whole site is stepped up to 230 kV.

The substation would be located at the NW corner of the intersection of Bettas Road and Highway 97. The Project proposes to interconnect with the existing Puget Sound Energy's Rocky Reach-White River 230 kV transmission line.

### **Transportation:**

Access to the Project would be provided from State Highway 97, and Bettas and Hayward Roads.

19 miles of new road would be constructed to access the turbine strings, and 7 miles of existing roads would be improved.

### **Water Supply and Discharge:**

During construction, water would be used for road construction, wetting of concrete, dust control and other activities. Water would be delivered to the site via water trucks from a source with an existing water right.

During operation water consumption would be less than 1000 gallons per day, primarily for bathroom and kitchen use. Water would be supplied by a new domestic well.

There would be no wastewater discharges from Project operations, other than water from the O&M building discharged to a domestic septic tank installed in accordance with Kittitas County Environmental Health Department requirements.

### **Key Issues:**

The major issues of concern that will be considered in the Project analysis include, but are not limited to:

- Impacts to Transportation
- Impacts to Fish, Plants, and Wildlife
- Noise
- Visual Impacts
- Health and Safety
- Economic Impacts
- Land-Use Consistency
- Cumulative Impacts

## **Mitigation Measures:**

The Applicant proposes mitigation measures for impacts from the Project. A detailed description of these measures is available in the Application for Site Certification, and includes:

### During Construction:

- A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to minimize the potential of discharge of pollutants from the construction site to local streams;
- A Fire and Explosion Risk Mitigation plan focusing on general fire protection and fire prevention activities during construction and operation of the Project;
- A Dust Control plan to minimize air emissions from construction-related ground disturbance and traffic;
- A Traffic Management Plan to provide notice to landowners of construction activities; provide road signage; use pilot cars; encourage car pooling; provide flaggers; and provide detour plans;
- Monitoring of ground breaking construction activities by a qualified archeologist to identify, and protect as appropriate, archeological artifacts that could be encountered;
- Mitigation measures aimed at protection of plants, birds and wildlife during construction, such as: avoidance of construction in sensitive areas such as riparian zones, wetlands, forests, etc.; minimization of new road construction by improving and using existing roads and trails instead of constructing new roads; and reseedling of all temporarily disturbed areas with an appropriate mix of native plant species to accelerate the revegetation of these areas and to prevent the spread of noxious weeds;
- Potential impacts to public services and utilities would be mitigated by tax revenues generated by the Applicant, and reimbursement of local government costs related to services not covered during construction by tax revenues.




### During Operation:


- The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan would be monitored through operation of the Project, and permanent best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented;
- Permanent fire mitigation measures would be implemented;
- Aesthetics, Light and Glare mitigation measures would be made an integral part of the Project design and would generally include such things as: restoring temporarily disturbed areas to original condition; using uniform turbine designs and coloring to reduce their visibility; synchronizing aviation lights; using a light design that minimizes light propagation and limiting their number to the extent allowed by the FAA; and placing the electrical collection system underground as much as is feasible;
- A mitigation package for Project operations impacts to plants and animals including:
  - Thorough study and analysis to avoid impacts (e.g. avian baseline study, raptor nest survey, rare plant investigation, etc.);
  - Project design features to minimize impacts (e.g. use of underground rather than overhead lines, use of bird flight diverters on guy wires, etc.);
  - Operational best management practices to minimize impacts (e.g. noxious weed control, fire control plan, removal of livestock carcasses to prevent raptor scavenging, etc.);
  - Monitoring and adaptive management to minimize impacts during operation (e.g. establish a Technical Advisory Committee, conduct one year post-construction wildlife monitoring plan, etc.);
  - Acquisition and enhancement of a large, contiguous area of good quality habitat that faces immediate threat of development.

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## Preliminary EFSEC Review Schedule

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Land-Use Consistency Hearing 	Summer 2003
Draft EIS Issued for Comment 	Summer 2003
Adjudicative Hearings 	Fall 2003
Final EIS Issued:	Winter 2003
Recommendation to the Governor:	Winter 2003-2004
Governor's Decision:	Spring 2004

 Indicates phases of the EFSEC review that will include opportunities for **public comment** and involvement.

Add your full name and address to the Meeting Attendance sheet or call (360) 956-2121 to get added to the Project mailing list to obtain future updates about the Project and notice of public meetings.

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## Additional Information

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To submit comments about the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project or for additional information about the **EFSEC review** of the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project you can contact:

Irina Makarow  
Siting Manager

EFSEC  
925 Plum Street SE, Bldg. 4  
PO Box 43172  
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

(360) 956-2047

efsec@ep.cted.wa.gov

For additional information about the **Counsel for the Environment** and public participation:

Michael Lufkin  
Counsel for the Environment

Assistant Attorney General's Office  
1125 Washington Street SE  
P.O. Box 40100  
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

(360) 586-3649

michaell@atg.wa.gov

Copies of the Application for Site Certification are available for public reference at the following local libraries:

### Carpenter Memorial (Cle Elum) Library

302 Pennsylvania Ave  
Cle Elum, WA 98922-1196

Tuesday & Friday: 10 AM to 5 PM  
Wednesday & Thursday: 10 AM to 7 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM to 2 PM

(509) 674-2313

### Ellensburg Public Library

209 North Ruby St  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Monday to Thursday: 10 AM to 8 PM  
Friday: 10 AM to 6 PM  
Saturday & Sunday: 1 PM to 5 PM

(509) 962-7250



Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

COMMENT FORM

Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project– March 12, 2003, Ellensburg, WA  
Public Informational &  
Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meeting

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please include your Zip!)

Please write any comments you have with respect to the proposed  
Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project  
below and leave this sheet in the Comment Box.

**SCOPING PERIOD  
CLOSED 3-14-03**

*Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.*

**For more information** about EFSEC's review of this application, please contact:  
Irina Makarow, Siting Manager, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172,  
call (360) 956-2047, or e-mail [efsec@ep.cted.wa.gov](mailto:efsec@ep.cted.wa.gov).

**To obtain future updates about the Project and notice of public meetings**, please be sure to  
include your name and complete mailing address on this comment form or call (360) 956-2121.